

**Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
	)	
Lifeline and Link Up Reform and	)	WC Docket No. 11-42
Modernization	)	
	)	
	)	
	)	

**REPLY COMMENTS IN RESPONSE TO TRACFONE’S REQUEST FOR  
CLARIFICATION**

The ETC Joint Commenters,<sup>1</sup> by and through their undersigned counsel, respectfully submit these brief reply comments in response to the Commission’s request for comment on TracFone’s request for clarification.<sup>2</sup>

First, while neither the Lifeline Modernization Order<sup>3</sup> nor the Commission’s rules require an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) to provide a smartphone to subscribers, consumers receiving mobile broadband Internet access service (BIAS) offerings should have devices that can handle such service. A 3G-capable feature phone with web browsing functionality used in

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<sup>1</sup> The ETC Joint Commenters are Assist Wireless, LLC; American Broadband and Telecommunications Company; Blue Jay Wireless, LLC; Easy Telephone Services Company d/b/a Easy Wireless; and Amerimex Communications Corp. d/b/a SafetyNet Wireless.

<sup>2</sup> *See Wireline Competition Bureau Seeks Comment on TracFone Request for Clarification*, Public Notice, WC Docket No. 11-42 (rel. Feb. 16, 2017); *see also* Letter from Mitchell F. Brecher, Greenberg Traurig, LLP to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket No. 11-42 et al. (filed Jan. 18, 2017) (TracFone Request); Letter from Norina T. Moy, Director, Government Affairs, Sprint, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket No. 11-42 et al. (filed Jan. 19, 2017).

<sup>3</sup> *See Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, et al.*, WC Docket No. 11-42, et al., Third Report and Order, Further Report and Order, and Order on Reconsideration, FCC 16-38 (rel. Apr. 27, 2016).

connection with a plan offering the minimum required data allotment enables consumers to access BIAS in a manner that meets the FCC's mobile BIAS minimum service standards.

Second, neither the Lifeline Modernization Order nor the Commission's rules limit the definition of mobile BIAS to licensed, cellular data connections. The Commission should continue to advance the central goals of innovation and consumer choice in the Lifeline Modernization Order by permitting Lifeline providers to offer consumers meaningful alternatives to traditional cellular data, including mobile BIAS plans that rely on alternative technologies such as unlicensed spectrum.

For the reasons outlined above, the Commission should deny TracFone's and Sprint's requests for clarification.

By:



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